

# Economic Services Administration

## General Assistance

Caseload Forecast Council  
March 17, 2005

### FAST FACTS:

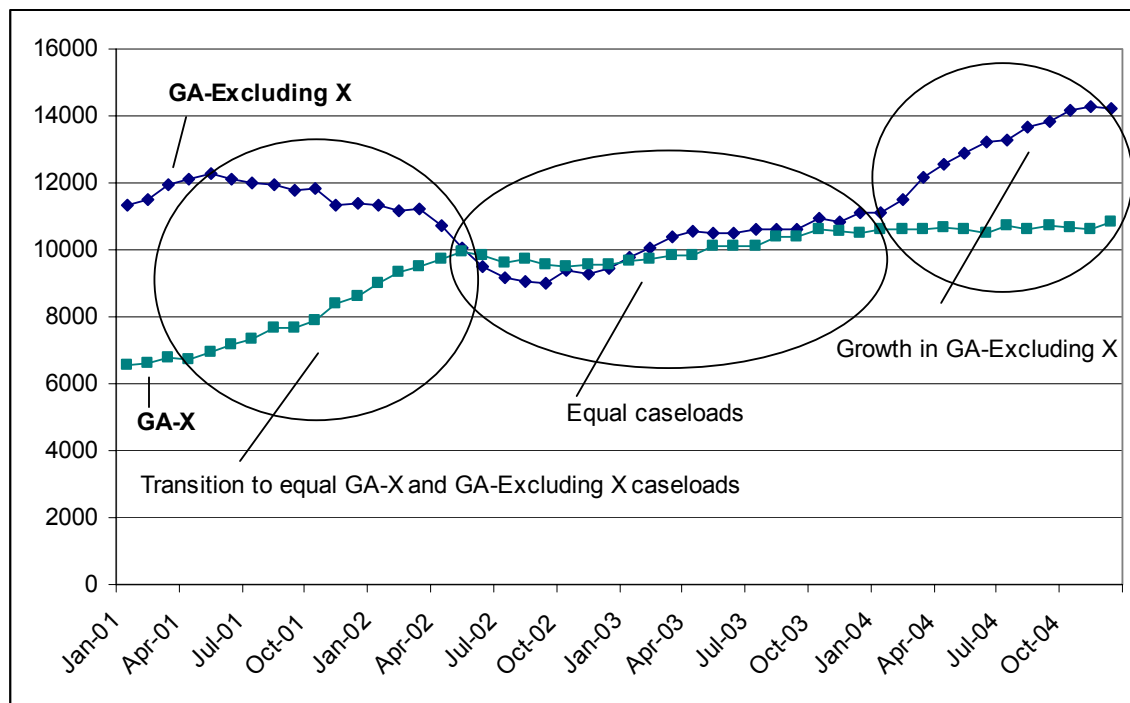
**Definition:** The General Assistance (GA) program provides cash assistance to adults, 18-64 (except for aged), with little income or resources who cannot work and who are not eligible for other public assistance programs.

GA-Unemployable (GA-U) are adults with a short-term incapacity expected to last at least 90 days.

GA-Expedited Medical (GA-X) are adults with an incapacity expected to last at least 12 months and who are likely to be eligible for the federal Social Security Insurance (SSI) program.

GA-Aged, Blind, and Disabled, Institutionalized or Regular (GA-A, B, D, I, R) are adults who are elderly, blind, disabled or who are residing in institutions. (Aged are people who typically do not qualify for SSI due to immigrant status.)

### Historical caseload movement by sub-categories:



In early 2002 there was an effort to move clients through the system from GA-U to X, this caused the GA-Excluding X caseload to fall, while the GA-X caseload rose. This was followed by a period of almost equal caseload levels in GA-X and GA-Excluding X. In early 2004, the GA-Excluding X caseload began to rise as the GA-X caseload remained almost constant.

**Distribution of cases by sub-category:**

	Aged (GA-A)	Unemployable (GA-U)	Expedited Medical (GA-X)	GA Other
FY00	4.2%	57.0%	36.2%	2.6%
FY02	4.4%	50.6%	43.9%	1.0%
FY04	5.9%	45.2%	47.7%	1.2%
FY05*estimated	6.6%	48.5%	43.6%	1.3%

**Caseload levels and growth rates by sub-categories:**

	Aged (GA-A)	Unemployable (GA-U)	Expedited Medical (GA-X)	GA-Other
FY04 Average Monthly Caseload	1,308	9,945	10,516	254
Annual Growth FY 03-04	27.9%	16.7%	8.1%	17.9%

Although GA-Aged has the highest growth rate, it still accounts for a fairly small percentage of the total GA caseload. Differential patterns of growth between GA-Aged, GA-U, and GA-X are expected to remain through the next biennium.

**Growth causation – increase in entries and increased length of stay:****Average Monthly Entries & Exits**

Fiscal Year	Entries	Exits	Entries less Exits
2001	1,762	1,562	200
2002	1,775	1,783	-8
2003	1,745	1,595	149
2004	1,989	1,742	248
2005*	2,168	1,869	299

\*Through December 2004

In 2002, average monthly entries and exits were about the same. Since that time, entries have exceeded exits by an ever increasing number.

**Average percentage of cases remaining on the caseload 12 months or longer:**

Fiscal Year	GA-U	GA-X
2001	18.3%	31.0%
2002	18.3%	31.0%
2003	19.6%	38.3%
2004	19.4%	40.3%
2005	19.7%	41.0%

Those clients remaining on the caseload for longer than 12 months has increase in both the GA-U and GA-X caseloads, indicating that the overall length of stay may be rising.

**Demographic Information:**

	GAU	GAX	Other
<b>Median Age</b>	43	44	70
<b>Married</b>	5.8%	3.5%	36.2%
<b>Citizenship</b>	GAU	GAX	Other
US Citizen	93.8%	96.4%	15.5%
Resident Alien	6.1%	3.5%	83.9%
<b>Gender</b>	GAU	GAX	Other
Female	41.5%	43.4%	63.0%
<b>Incapacity</b>	GAU	GAX	Other
Emotional	42.7%	65.8%	4.6%
Physical	53.3%	32.1%	11.1%
Other <sup>1</sup>	4.0%	2.1%	84.3%

<sup>1</sup>Other includes mental disability and those approved based on age or disability reasons.